



# CDF Firefighters

## Training Overview

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) responds to more than 286,000 emergency incidents each year. It is the goal of the Department that every fire engine responding from a CDF station carries CDF firefighters, fire apparatus engineers and/or fire captains that have met, at a minimum, the extensive training requirements included on this fact sheet.



### Firefighter I

- ◆ **Public Safety First Aid**
  - Public Safety CPR
  - Communicable Disease Awareness
  - Child and Elder Abuse
  - Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
- ◆ **Firefighter I Basic 67 Hour Training**
  - Personal Protective Equipment
  - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
- ◆ **Hazardous Materials: First Responder-Operational**
- ◆ **Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)/ Sexual Harassment**
- ◆ **Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS)**
- ◆ **Wildland Firefighter Survival**  
(140 total hours required within the first year)

### Firefighter II

- ◆ All Firefighter I requirements AND:
- ◆ **First Responder Medical Training**
- ◆ **Basic Fire Academy (BFC 1A)**
- ◆ **Basic Fire Academy Fire: fighting skills (BFC 1B)**
- ◆ **Basic Incident Command System**
- ◆ **Confined Space Rescue**
- ◆ **FF II Joint Apprenticeship Committee Syllabus**  
(362 total hours required within the first year  
144 additional hours each the second and third year)

### Fire Apparatus Engineer

- ◆ All Firefighter I and II requirements AND:
- ◆ **Basic Fire Academy (BFC 2A): Driver Operator**
- ◆ **Basic Fire Academy (BFC 2B): Skills Application**
- ◆ **Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior**
- ◆ **FAE Joint Apprenticeship Committee Syllabus**
- ◆ **Incident Management 1**
- ◆ **Incident Management 2**  
(414 total hours required within the first year  
782 total hours required within three years)



## Training Overview (Cont.)

### Fire Captain (A)

- ◆ Intermediate Incident Command System Training
  - ◆ Substance Abuse Identification
  - ◆ Leadership Development
- (122 total hours required within the first year)

### Fire Captain (B) Crew Captain

Crew captains supervise inmate, ward, and California Conservation Corp (CCC) fire crews.

- ◆ All Fire Captain A requirements AND:
  - ◆ Fire Crew Captain Module Training
- (80 total hours required within the first year)



## Safety Rules

### **Ten Standard Fire Orders**

These are the rules that CDF fire personnel must be ever mindful of when responding to an incident.

#### **FIRE BEHAVIOR**

1. Keep informed of fire weather conditions and forecasts.
2. Know what your fire is doing at all times.
3. Base all actions on current and expected fire behavior.

#### **FIRELINE SAFETY**

4. Identify escape routes and safety zones and make them known.
5. Post a lookout when there is possible danger.
6. Be alert. Keep calm. Think clearly. Act decisively.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CONTROL**

7. Maintain prompt communications with your forces, your supervisor and adjoining forces.
8. Give clear instructions and insure they are understood.
9. Maintain control of your forces at all times.

#### **IF YOU CONSIDER 1-9, THEN**

10. Fight fire aggressively, having provided for safety first.

### **18 “Watch Out” Situations**

CDF firefighters are trained to be alert for these situations that represent added danger to crews on or responding to a fire.

1. Fire not scouted and sized-up.
2. In country not seen in daylight.
3. Safety zones and escape routes not identified.
4. Unfamiliar with weather and local factors influencing fire behavior.
5. Uninformed on strategy, tactics and hazards.
6. Instructions and assignments not clear.
7. No communications link with crew members/supervisor.
8. Constructing fireline without a safe anchor point.
9. Building fireline downhill with fire below you.
10. Attempting a frontal assault on the fire.
11. Unburned fuel between you and the fire.
12. Cannot see the main fire, not in contact with anyone who can.
13. On a hillside where rolling material can ignite fuel below you.
14. Weather is getting hotter and drier.
15. Wind increases and/or changes direction.
16. Getting frequent spot fires across the line.
17. Terrain and fuels make escape to safety zones slow and difficult.
18. Taking a nap near the fireline.

